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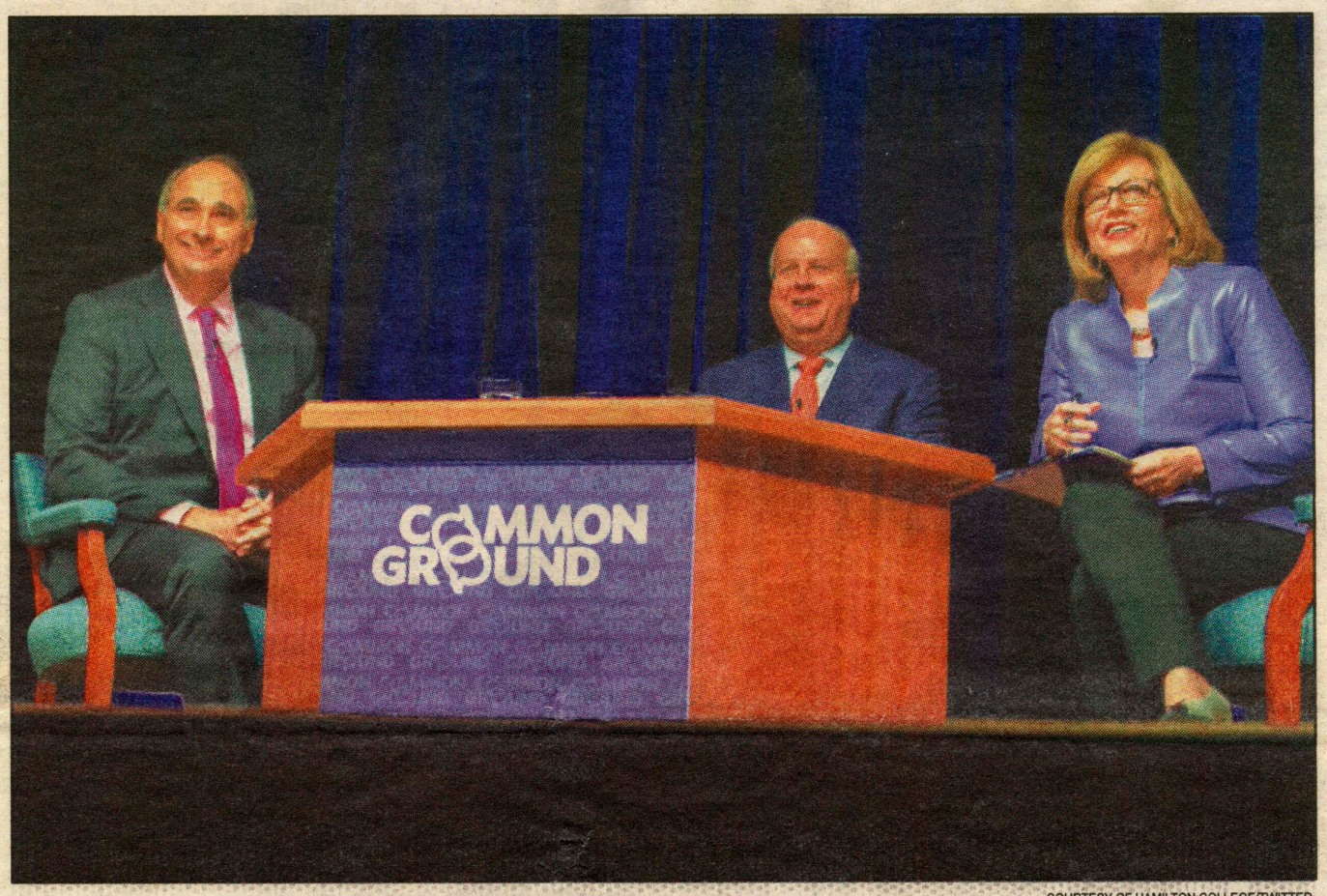
The Spectator

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017

Volume CLXX
Number 7

Hamilton hosts first installment of "Common Ground" series

by Madeleine Maher '18
& Charles Dunst '18
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF



COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE/TWITTER

David Axelrod, Karl Rove, and Susan Page on stage in the Margaret Bundy Scott Fieldhouse.

On Wednesday, Oct. 18, Hamilton College hosted the first "Common Ground" event. This new speaker series is supported by the Pohl family, in honor of the five members of the family who graduated from Hamilton. This inaugural event featured a discussion between former Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to President George W. Bush, Karl Rove, and former Chief Strategist and Senior Advisor to President Obama, David Axelrod. This discussion was moderated by *USA Today* Washington Bureau Chief Susan Page. While Axelrod and Rove have no personal connection to the college, Page's son graduated from Hamilton in 2010. Page joked that she agreed to do this event as a means to "repay a debt," referring to the college's acceptance of her son.

According to President Wippman, who has made free speech and civil discourse a top priority on the hill since coming to Hamilton, "the goal is for the speakers to model the kind of respectful dialogue across political boundaries that should occur not just on college campuses, but in the broader society as well. With capable speakers on both sides of a given issue, each willing to acknowledge strengths in the position of the other speaker, we aim to encourage students and other audience members to question their own assumptions and consider carefully the evidence and arguments supporting other viewpoints."

Page posed both her own questions, as well as those submitted by Hamilton students and faculty. Questions included: How did you personally contribute to American political polarization? What factors have led to the extinction of conservative Democrats and liberal Republicans? What do you make of the upcoming appearance of all five living presidents at the 20th anniversary of George H.W. Bush's presidential library; is this unity taking place to address a potential constitutional crisis? While Axelrod and Rove aimed to answer the first two questions – with Axelrod citing regrettable ads he had commissioned and Rove admitting to sabotaging the opening of a campaign office by promising free food and alcohol – both men took issue with the final question. Both Axelrod and Rove refuted the premise that the five living American presidents believe the nation to be careening towards a constitutional crisis. In this case, both men reaffirmed their belief in the strength of American institutions.

COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE/TWITTER

David Axelrod and Karl Rove speak to students in the Red Pit.

Unlike recent political events at Middlebury and William & Mary, Common Ground was not disrupted by campus protestors. The Margaret Bundy Scott Field House was nearly full, as around 2,000 tickets were distributed. Throughout the hour and a half, the crowd remained diligently engaged, leading Rove to joke, "I think they locked the doors." While the Field House was mostly full, many attendees appeared to be community members, rather than the student body for which the lesson of free speech was supposed to be imparted upon.

Although there were no active protests, student response was mixed. "We shouldn't have to find common ground with people who don't respect our humanity," said Gwyn Sise '19, who, as a result, opted to not attend. Annie Canning '19 took a more moderate stance on the event, stating "I enjoyed hearing the advisors' thoughts on the current political climate, but I wish they provided more opinionated responses that could have sparked a more substantial debate." Anna McCloskey '18 responded more positively, stating, "It was a privilege to hear such distinguished strategists joke as friends and debate as professionals," adding, "they set an excellent example of how to foster discussion in a polarized society."

Rove, Axelrod, and Page met with members of the Hamilton community in smaller settings throughout the day leading up to the event. In the afternoon, Rove and Axelrod dove deeper into specific policy-related discussions with the honor's thesis Government students, as well as students enrolled in Government course "American Political Process" and Philosophy course "Critical Thinking." Additionally, Susan Page met with members of *The Spectator* staff for lunch to discuss the current state of journalism and politics, as well as careers in the field. President Wippman rounded off the pre-event festivities by hosting a small dinner for student leaders, board members, and select professors.

Following the first installment of Common Ground, *The Spectator* would like to reaffirm its non-partisan status, as well as its wholehearted endorsement of free speech and civil discourse. In the midst of the current political climate, both on and off campus, *The Spectator* applauds the College's mission to promote civil discourse and debate as a means to intellectual growth and maturity.

Resisting censorship & surrending to ignorance: A lecture on free speech by Sam Lebovic

COURTESY OF THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Author and Professor Sam Lebovic presented a lecture Monday evening on his award-winning book.

by Sarah Salimi '20
News Editor

This past Monday, the History Department hosted George Mason University Assistant Professor of History Sam Lebovic.

Lebovic presented a lecture that outlined his recently published book, *Free Speech and Unfree News: The Paradox of Press Freedom in America*. Lebovic's work won him the Ellis W. Hawley prize, an annual book award which recognizes "the best historical study in the fields of political economy, politics, or institutions within the United States from the Civil War to the present."

Lebovic began with a fundamental incongruity — the widespread belief that free speech is an untouchable American right, but that it is also "beset by a series of crises." These are two-fold, encompassing both the crisis of newspaper economics after the advent of the internet as well as the rise of state secrecy. His analysis traces these contemporary trends to the middle decades of the 20th century.

Until 1919, Lebovic explains, Americans did not have a "meaningfully protected" right to free speech. The first amendment protected citizens from Congressional infringements upon their speech liberty, but makes no mention of the authority of the states in this regard.

States had widespread power to regulate speech and press. For example, abolitionist material was censored in the south, while the north banned the publication and distribution of obscene materials (pornography, seditious materials, etc.).

The defining moment of the right to free expression came about in the case of *Abrams v. the United States*, in which Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes defined free, protected speech as that which poses no immediate danger or crime. This is how free speech continues to be understood to this day.

This stagnancy in the conceptualization of free speech is precisely what Lebovic took issue with. How is it possible, he asks, that despite all the changes in the state and newspaper industry, Americans have never adjusted their theories of what exactly constitutes a free press?

What are these visions, and when did they originate? According to Lebovic, there are two visions of the free press engendered within the 20th century. The first conceptualizes this first amendment right as freedom from government intervention. Lebovic terms this a framework of negative liberties — rights that are defined by the absence of certain actions.

The second conceptualization views freedom of expression as a positive right; it is defined not by the absence of government censorship, but instead by the right of access to state secrets, a steady flow of diverse, quality information, produced by journalists who hold themselves to high standards of integrity. This might be more accurately termed the freedom of information.

There have been a variety of ways that Americans in the 20th century have argued over these two visions of free speech – freedom from censorship vs. freedom to information.

As Lebovic explains, the battle for freedom to information has ultimately lost traction and faded into the background. This has and continues to pose a real threat to society because even though the flow of information has been restricted, there is increasingly less awareness of this fact.

According to Lebovic, two major threats in the realm of the first amendment, as expressed earlier, are the rise of state secrecy and corporate consolidation of the newspaper industry.

Lebovic included a thorough historical context of newspaper consolidation in his lecture, shedding light on the current implications. By the 1930s, the monopoly within the news industry had become a major political problem. Due to rising costs, papers were more expensive to own, which enabled a select few chains to dominate the industry and drive out any potential rivals, who could not afford the overwhelming start-up costs.

Between 1919 and 1942, there was a 14 percent decline in the number of newspapers in the country, despite a 30 percent increase in literacy. In the 1930s, one third of daily circulation was controlled by chains. "This political economy posed a real challenge to democracy," expressed Lebovic.

The mainstream media was increasingly owned by individual, powerful business people or "newspaper barons," such as William Randolph Hearst and Frank Gannett. These outlets had an unabashedly conservative tilt, which severely impacted the extent to which they were able to cover current issues in a non-biased fashion, such as Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

In an effort to diversify, break up monopolies, and allow rival points of view to permeate the newspaper industry, various groups worked to regulate the "free" press. The National Recovery Administration proposed a series of economic regulations on the newspaper industry. Moreover, antitrust action was brought against the Associated Press.

In retaliation, the newspaper industry framed these economic regulations as "dictatorial efforts to dominate America's free press," an imposition on first amendment rights, and verging on totalitarianism.

However, as Lebovic's findings might suggest, newspaper corporations were, in fact, the bodies with such dictatorial power. Due to lobbying on the part of the newspaper industry, newspapers succeeded in evading regulation– making it the only industry that was not regulated during the New Deal. Later attempts to use the state as a vehicle for breaking up media monopolies were also met with failure because of a legitimate concern that this would open the door to totalitarianism as well.

The second issue Lebovic contends with is the rise of state secrecy that began during World War II, with the increasing desire to protect state secrets in the interest of national security. These efforts were spearheaded by the Security Advisory Board, which was the first body in charge of looking at national security arrangements.

The Security Advisory Board adopted a framework of "voluntary censorship" in an effort to avoid stifling free speech or regulating the press. At the same time, the passage of Executive Order 1029 made it illegal for federal employees to leak government information; however, if the press gets access to this information, they are able to print it.

As of today, there are 7.5 billion pages classified, which roughly totals the amount of pages in the library of Congress. This, however, is an "insidious" form of censorship because there is no way to know what is classified.

Moreover, there is a tendency on the part of government officials to over-classify so as to avoid liability. Estimates hold that somewhere between 80 and 90 percent of all information that is classified should not have been, suggesting that there is a tremendous disjunction between the information that the public does and should have access to.

Even with the passage of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in 1946, which was mean to increase access public access to this information, this problem has not been resolved — only 6 percent of FOIA requests are made by journalists, as compared to 60 percent of those made by corporations.

In sum, Lebovic concluded that there are no good mechanisms currently in place to deal with the rise of state secrecy and media outlet consolidation, which have collectively contributed to the problem of public accessibility of accurate information.

This problem is only getting worse. According to Lebovic, "we focus so much on right to free expression that the idea that there is actual information upon which these opinions should be based has been lost completely." It becomes difficult for a democratic citizenship to act in responsible, ethical ways if the information they have access to is of degraded quality.

Lebovic critiques this "deep legacy of under-valuing information" in American politics and urges a reconceptualization of a free press that is not only free from censorship, but also defined by access to diverse information of superior quality. Only then, he suggests, will this first amendment right be vindicated.

Alternative break programs underway for the year

COURTESY OF BELLADONNA SINS '19

Hamilton students volunteered at Double H Ranch over the weekend as part of Alternative Fall Break.

by Dillion Kelly '18
SENIOR EDITOR

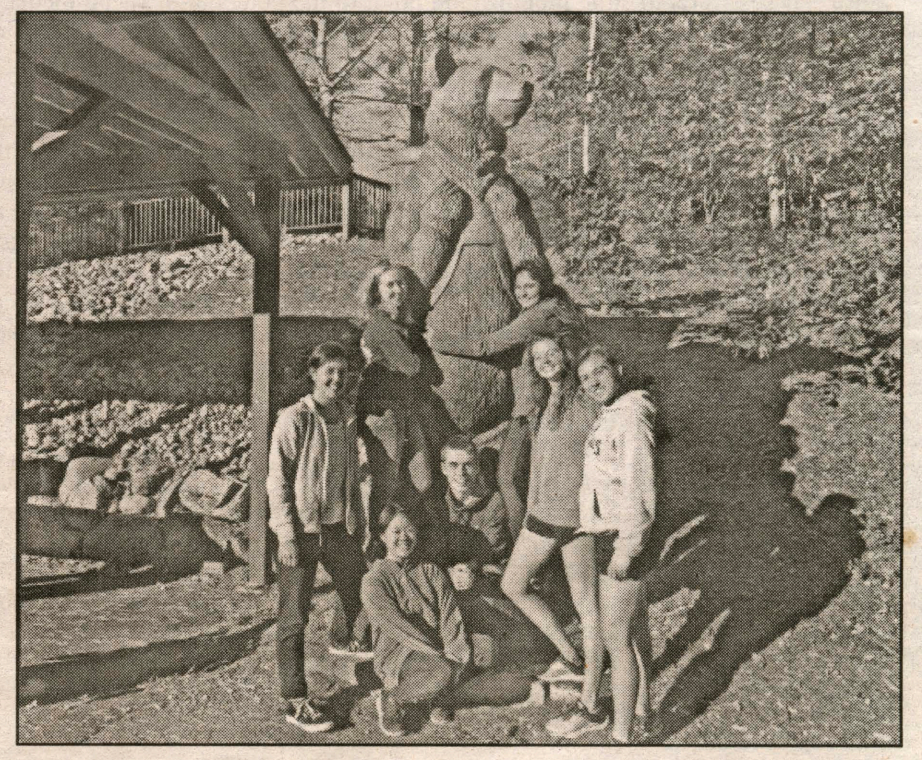
For many school breaks, Hamilton offers "alternative" break trips, in which students volunteer in places all over the country to assist with various issues and causes. The program has been a huge success in years past, and this year, Alternative Breaks, titled "AXB," is looking to make some exciting changes.

Last year, AXB expanded its offerings, including Fall Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break options. Student Director Sabrina Gattine '18 spoke further about changes that have taken place this year, including a Fall Break trip. Gattine said of the trip, "eight students went to Double H in the Adirondacks to help out with their Family Memorial Weekend and it sounds like it was a big hit!"

For the upcoming breaks, both Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks, Gattine spoke about what the program has planned. While AXB does not have a trip planned for Thanksgiving Break, Gattine thinks this may be the program's next venture. As for Winter Break, Gattine claimed, "We're planning on sending a group to Florida to help with hurricane disaster relief. This trip can take up to ten students and will be running at the end of Winter Break."

For this year's Spring Break, the program's original venture, Gattine says there are exciting and more expansive options for students. The program will be running a total of six trips, including Habitat for Humanity, environmental conservation and community outreach-based trips.

If you are already busy over Winter Break, be sure to sign up for one of AXB's Spring Break trips if you want to be a part of incredible work.



COURTESY OF BELLADONNA SINS '19

Students embrace the outdoor spirit over fall break in the Adironack Park Near Lake Champlain.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Monday, October 09

10:51 A.M Fire Alarm – Milbank Hall

11:41 A.M. Smoke Detector – Carnegie Hall

Tuesday, October 10

11:14 A.M. Motor Vehicle Accident – Burke Library

7:00 P.M. Fire Drills – South Campus

11:45 P.M. Noise Complaint – Bundy West

Wednesday, October 11

1:01 A.M. Noise Complaint – Griffin Road Apts

3:16 P.M. Motorist Assist – Root Lot

7:28 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Dunham Hall

Thursday, October 12

10:37 A.M. Fire Alarm – Minor Hall

4:23 P.M. Area Check (Alarm) – Eells House

4:24 P.M. Parking Complaint – Griffin Road

Friday, October 13

1:54 A.M. Noise/Marijuana Complaint – Bundy East

6:45 P.M. Fire Alarm – Saunders House

11:37 P.M. Fire Alarm – Eells House

Saturday, October 14

3:39 P.M. Motorist Assist – Skenandoa Lot

6:37 P.M. Smoke Detector – Milbank Hall

11:30 P.M. Noise Complaint – Griffin Road Apts.

Sunday, October 15

12:14 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Modern activism: taking steps beyond social media

On Tuesday evening, Dr. Mary Gallagher came to Hamilton to give a lecture on the current state of censorship in China. Her talk focused on contemporary efforts by the Chinese Communist Party to repress alternative and competing political ideologies, and the challenge of effectively implementing targeted repression given the expansion of social media. One interesting point she made is that the Chinese government tolerates debate, discussion, and even criticism on social media outlets, but focuses its censorship efforts on quelling mass mobilization behind a certain cause. These efforts to stifle mobilization point to the potential of social media to enact political change, and also emphasize the responsibility of those who enjoy unrestricted internet to take their online activism further than reposts and hashtags.

All too often, a shared grievance voiced on social media can become contagious enough to fill our newsfeeds but not enough to inspire true mobilization behind the issue. Even in the cases where a social media trend does gain a significant following, the issue disappears from internet forums within a week if it is not backed by organized action. Currently, the #metoo hashtag circulating on Twitter and Facebook is at risk of such a fate. The hashtag has been shared over 200,000 times within the last two days and is meant to reveal the magnitude of sexual assault against women around the world. While this goal is undoubtedly valiant, this awareness campaign is at risk of becoming obsolete just as quickly as it spread if online activists do not harness the potential of social media to mobilize users to push for practical – and often local – legislative sexual assault prevention measures.

Social media does not only pose a challenge to authoritarian regimes, but to democratic governments who must respond to the grievances of constituents, especially those that are backed by mass followings. A widespread awareness campaign on social media outlets is just the first step in igniting meaningful change around the issue. Without the second step of legitimate, tangible action, these awareness campaigns wither and eventually disappear. If you care about an issue, find ways to take action, rather than simply complain on Facebook or Twitter.

The Spectator

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The Spectator **is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely, and high-quality publication.**

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Celebrating 170 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1847.*

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Insensitive use of "crazy" and other adjectives harmful to those struggling with mental health

by Julia Dupuis '21
Contributing Writer

Psycho. Crazy. Schizo. Bipolar.

There may have been times when you have used words like these when referring to the latest episode of your favorite television show, describing a party, or even just unpredictable weather. You also could have used them to describe an obsessive ex or a teacher you did not like.

In today's political climate, psychiatric terms are thrown around flippantly, mostly in reference to public figures. For example, many people in the media describe President Trump as "insane" or will say a different politician is "off his meds."

Using words like "crazy," "psycho," or "insane" in casual, everyday speech — whether used as just throwaway adjectives or as insults — can be deeply harmful to those who live with these mental illnesses.

People with conditions such as psychosis, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or multiple personality disorder are living all around us. They are our family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Despite the association of these illnesses with violence and unpredictability, millions of Americans each year live normal lives outside of an institution, managing their symptoms through medication and therapy.

This kind of language not only trivializes mental illness, but also substitutes people's real life experiences for stereotypes or horror clichés and strips them of their humanity.

Through casual repetition, we have assimilated these words into our everyday speech. Words like "crazy" have become almost second nature, and they have lost their original meaning through time and consistent use. But no matter how many definitions these words develop over time, they will always be linked back to the mentally ill.

You could be using these words without even be thinking about their origin. But ultimately, if this language is stigmatizing people with severe mental illnesses, then the amount of thought behind these terms is irrelevant. It is about the impact of our language, not the intention.

These words reinforce dangerous stereotypes about the mentally ill: that they are scary, murderous, and unstable. This can seriously damage a person's chance for recovery and discourages them from getting help. Reducing their struggles to a disinhibited, petulant, and malicious caricature is insulting to the people that live with that burden every day.

Words have power. The right words spoken by the right people can influence our cultural trends and reinforce social power dynamics. Changing our language alone will not fix the stigma, but it is a good place to start. It starts from the ground up. Rethinking the way we reference mental illness in casual speech has the power to change the way view these issues on a larger scale.

This is not about policing language or banning certain words. It is about making the decision to be conscious about our speech and altering our verbal habits to be more sensitive. In addition, using alternatives to terms such as "insane" or "psycho" is likely to make you more specific, descriptive, and an overall better communicator.

The casual and damaging use of psychiatric terms creates an oppressive and even dangerous environment for people with mental illnesses, many of whom are already struggling to establish their humanity, identity, and self-worth in a society that devalues their voices. When these disorders are used to tear people down, it confirms our culture's bias about what being crazy really means: threatening, unstable, and barely human.

Power to the privileged: concerned students must harness their ability to affect change

by Gavin Meade '20
Staff Writer

If you are at all a culturally literate individual then you are aware that things are not exactly perfect in this nation of ours. From the (latest) largest mass shooting in our history, to wildfires destroying homes in California, to the ongoing (and underreported) crisis in Puerto Rico, the general mood of our population is grim. We, and forgive me for getting political, have a president who reportedly jokes with his vice president about hanging homosexuals and a Congress that seems more focused on denying women access to reproductive health products than on preventing acts of terror like the Las Vegas shooting. So yes, the mood is certainly grim.

According to a YouGov poll, only six percent of people think the world is improving. Additionally, the poll showed that more Americans believe in astrology and reincarnation than in global progress. Large chunks of our socio-cultural lives are falling to pieces. In an age of slavish media, clickbait headlines preach of doom. In the last few weeks on campus, I have heard people remark about how bad things are and how much "life just really sucks." Hearing this and seeing this general attitude is upsetting. Complaint without action or effort for a better future is just noise, and at times it can be downright hypocritical.

A *Spectator* article published last February titled, "Socioeconomic divide in student body merits reform at all levels", cited a *New York Times* graphic critiquing the relative socio-economic makeup of college campuses. The article said, "38 colleges in the United States that had more students from the top 1 percent of income than the bottom 60 percent [...] number 18 was Hamilton, where 19.6 percent of the students in the class of 2013 came from families in the top percentile of wealth."

I do not come from the top 1 percent and those reading this might not either, but the odds are very good that any one of us is much better off than the average American and certainly the average global citizen. You and I have a responsibility to be, well, more — more than a student, more than a friend, more than whatever labels you want to put on yourself. There are so many opportunities at Hamilton that I see people squander. We are afforded rare opportunities to have a positive impact on the lives of people around us and too few people capitalize on these chances.

Organizations like Hamilton Autism Advocates for NeuroDiversity (HAAND), which is made up of students striving to raise awareness about autism and who work on the weekends with children and families who are on the spectrum, are incredibly rewarding, wholesome, and all too often underrepresented and underutilized. By no means is HAAND the only student-led organization affecting positive change. Many others including BLSU, Café con Leche, Minds for Change, SMART, and SAVES are other prime examples of students doing more with their privilege.

I challenge you to join an organization like HAAND or one of the many like it on campus. I feel that it is irresponsible to be pessimistic and defeatist about the state of the world without making a concerted effort to correct what you perceive to be wrong with it. Though there are certainly events around the world that can make it feel like we have no control, that does not mean we should spurn our responsibility to ourselves and to our community to do good whereever possible.

As individuals, we have very few opportunities to create change on a macroscopic level, but it is when we come together and plug into our communities that positive change comes about.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Three days of alloy orchestra. Rachel apparently really loves "guys that play music off of rusty saws."	**Midterms; I don't remember the last time I was this stressed out.**	**Family Weekend is this weekend. Guess what happened last Family Weekend?**
Summer Science Research Poster Session. Please come see my poster. I ran out of things to put in it so it now features an enormous picture of me and my professor looking at a plant, which is cool because I've always wanted to have a giant poster of myself.	**The weather. Time to decide, Mother Nature.**	**My dad got really upset that someone outbid him at the student art auction. This Family Weekend he's in China on business.**
	Common Ground on a Wednesday? Guys, we have those aforementioned midterms.	**CAB is doing a Cars 3 Movie Showing. Vroom vroom, baby. Lightning McQueen never dies.**
	Also, the world is totally ending right? There is a lot of evidence that it is, and absolutely none that it isn't so...	

by Tara Cicic '18 and Rachel Alatalo '18

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Adapting to Alexa: why the College needs to catch up to the new trend of voice-control technology

by Will Kaback '20
Opinion Editor

We have reached such an advanced point in our technological capabilities that sometimes all that is left to do is joke about it. Look no further than a recent Saturday Night Live skit that parodies Amazon's wildly popular Echo device, imagining the voice-based service as it might be used by the elderly.

Dubbed "Amazon Echo Silver," the updated device is described as being designed "specifically for use by the Greatest Generation." A gray-haired and bespectacled Kenan Thompson is seen putting Alexa to the test.

"Allegra!" he shouts at it. "How many did ol' Satchel strike out last night?," to which Alexa replies, "Satchel Paige died in 1982."

Undeterred, Thompson replies, "And how many did he get?"

Where the original Echo might have faltered, the Echo Silver coolly says, "Satchel Paige is dead."

"He what now?" says Thompson.

"Died," says Alexa.

"Who did?" he asks.

"Satchel Paige," she says.

At this point, Thompson mutters, "Uh-huh," then looks at the device critically and counters, "I don't know about that."

This sketch—part-Abbott and Costello, part-telemarketing spoof, part-gentle jab at the latest fad—is hilarious, but also an incredible look into what a technology-infused future will look like. Because as outrageous as it is, the skit is strikingly close to reality.

Anyone who has seen one of Amazon's Echo devices (or the Google Home or Apple's soon-to-be-released HomePod) in action has seen the next great leap forward in commercial technology. I would argue that the last time the public was introduced to a device with this much potential to reshape our day-to-day lives, it was a decade ago, when Steve Jobs presented the very first iPhone.

These voice-based devices are different from similar technology that currently exists, like Siri on those aforementioned iPhones. While many of the features appear to be the same at first glance, the potential of Echo and its counterparts is only just beginning to be understood. Amazon has bet big on this technology, and so far the results have exceeded even their sizeable expectations. Between November 2016 and January 2017, the number of Amazon Echo users shot up 60 percent, increasing from 5.1 million to 8.2 million people in that short period of time, according to *GeekWire*. Much of this boom can be attributed to holiday shopping, but the Echo has maintained this momentum up to the current day. Amazon, no doubt keen to further corner the market, has also begun to expand the range of Alexa-enabled devices, most recently releasing the Echo Show, an Alexa device with a touchscreen and camera to allow for video calling, in addition to the thousands of other features earlier versions of the Echo offer.

My family loves the Echo—so much so that we have three of them. When I am home, I am always amazed by the symbiotic relationship that continues to develop between the device and its users. In the morning, Alexa offers an in-depth weather forecast, the news stories from the previous night, and plays soothing wake-up music. Throughout the day, she tells topical jokes, offers traffic suggestions, and gradually learns and adjusts to your schedule. Ask her what she thinks about the Alexa Silver and she will reply, "Uh-huh. I don't know about that." Even the technology is in on its own joke.

It can be easy to forget you are talking to a discrete, stationary cylinder during these interactions, but even when one stops to consider this strange reality, the "futuristic" nature of the entire apparatus almost makes it more fun. And while there have been countless critiques and dire dystopian warnings about such devices (*Her*, anyone?), it really is incredible how seamlessly they can simplify your life. So when I bought an Echo device of my own to use in my dorm room this year, I was dismayed to find that the College lacked both the network infrastructure and desire to accommodate such an exciting new technology.

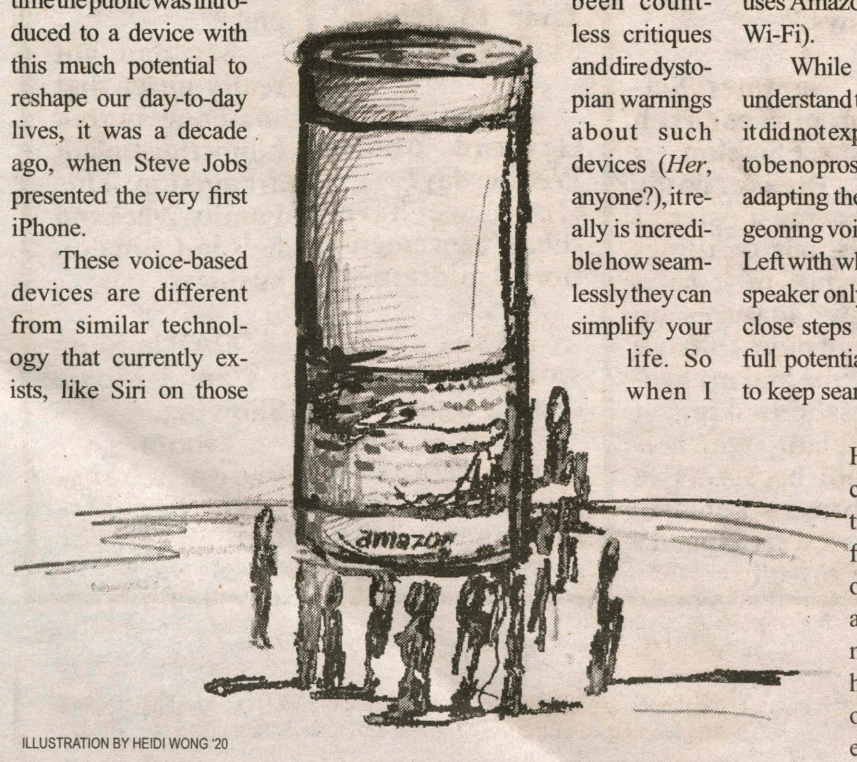

ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

The problem was simple: I was not able to use my Hamilton credentials to connect the Echo to Wi-Fi, a small but vital step to using the device's features. When I reached out to LITS to try and resolve the issue, I was told that the College simply does not support any Amazon devices.

I was perplexed and disappointed. Perplexed because I did not understand how connecting to a network I knew to work on every Apple and Windows device was suddenly incompatible with a similar technology, and disappointed that the College's technology services seemed so unwilling to even look into the issue. I talked to other students who bought an Echo or Amazon Fire Stick to use for their television, I heard the same qualm—LITS had told them it was not possible to connect Amazon devices to the network and there were no prospects for gaining access in the future. I also looked online to see if other colleges were experiencing similar problems, and, sure enough, there was an entire community of college students, professors, and professionals who had bought their own Echo devices, only to be uniformly shut down when trying to get them online.

As I read more, I learned that this issue is not solely the College's fault. We are all familiar with the "aps-hamilton," WPA2 Enterprise system we use to connect our phones and computers to the College Wi-Fi, but this (somewhat obscure) network does not currently allow devices like Echo to connect (although there is still the great irony that the College uses Amazon Web Services for its Wi-Fi).

While this insight helped me understand the root of my problem, it did not explain why there seemed to be no prospect of the College ever adapting their network to this burgeoning voice-control technology. Left with what was now a glorified speaker only a few, excruciatingly close steps away from having its full potential unlocked, I decided to keep searching.

It turns out that Hamilton (and the other colleges with connection issues) have already fallen behind their peers on this trend. Amazon and Alexa have started making their way into higher education and onto college campuses—for those that will have them. As first reported by *EdSurge* this past August, Amazon has begun working with colleges and universities around the country to implement its devices into class curriculum and for casual use. At Arizona State University, Amazon gave 1,600 free Echos to engineering students for their personal use and experimentation. One of the coolest features of the Echo is that it allows users to write their own "Skills" that they can use to personalize their devices, such as customized news briefings, trivia, room temperature adjustments, and countless other possibilities. These students would be able to use the device for their own benefit while also, in the words of a university spokesperson, "gain[ing] skills in voice technology, an emerging field."

There is also the Amazon Alexa Fund Fellowship, a program for college students and professors to learn how to use voice technology and develop curriculum that is buoyed by its use. Currently, Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Waterloo, the University of Southern California, and Johns Hopkins University are all a part of the Fellowship. This year, they will award $2.5 million to any university that is working on pioneering new ideas in voice-based artificial intelligence, dubbed the Alexa Prize.

Furthermore, Amazon is encouraging other developers of educational software to utilize its Alexa system as they create services for colleges and universities. Already, Canvas, a learning management system analogous to Blackboard, has taken the first steps to be Alexa-enabled. Evidently, Amazon is eager to work with colleges and universities to integrate their technology, and is willing to cover most of the costs to do so. Any tech- or trend-savvy school would be smart to take advantage of this reality and seek to connect with Amazon as some have done already.

Even without Amazon's support, schools are utilizing voice-control devices in a variety of ways. At Utah State University, a visually impaired instructor uses an Echo to supplement his lessons while also simplifying basic, but taken-for-granted tasks like turning on the projector and dimming classroom lights. Other schools have created custom Alexa Skills that allow students to quiz themselves, with Alexa shooting course-specific questions at them and analyzing their responses. Only three years removed from Echo's launch, technologically-aware schools are already figuring out how to use the devices to help out its students and teachers.

Beyond its educational potential though, voice-controlled technology has the ability to vastly improve the quality and ease of life on campus. Imagine waking up in the morning to gray, ambiguous skies and wondering what the forecast for the day holds. Sure, you could use a weather app on your phone or computer, but why do that when you could simply say, "Alexa, what's the weather for today?" without moving from your bed and receive an in-depth, hourly forecast spoken back to you in an instant?

How about those of us who like to stay up-to-date on current events (or are required to for a class)? Alexa will not only tell you the top stories of the day, but also play you news clips directly from the source while you are changing or getting ready to leave your room.

On a basic level, Alexa can bring you a little bit of joy or distraction when you need it most. Whether that is in the form of a cheesy joke, Jeopardy-like trivia, or an update on a sports score is up to you; but that is the point—it is up to you! The infinitely customizable and impressive adaptability of the technology means that the more you use it, the more it understands you and makes your life easier. And with intense competition between Amazon, Google, Apple, and other companies, the entire industry is sure to rapidly build on its already incredibly useful features and user interactions.

What it comes down to is this: voice-control technology, whether from Amazon or anyone else, represents the next wave of progress in commercial devices. Given these companies' willingness (and eagerness) to work with colleges and universities to implement their devices on campus for educational and recreational use, it would be a shame for Hamilton to lag behind its peers simply because it refuses to adapt its Wi-Fi network.

Additionally, as skills like coding become more and more valued in virtually every career field, gaining competency in emerging technological areas like these would help Hamilton students become better prepared for life after college, while also exposing us to new career possibilities. Whether your interest lies in STEM, English, History, Theater, Anthropology, or any other subject, these devices have already demonstrated their ability to stimulate learning and engagement on multiple levels.

Hamilton should follow the lead of Arizona State, Carnegie Mellon, Johns Hopkins, and the other schools who have already made a conscious effort to keep themselves and their students on the cutting edge of this exciting technological world.

Where to take my parents this weekend?

by Peter Case '21
Contributing Writer

It's Family Weekend, when students all around campus panic about how to entertain their parents for more than an hour. It is great to see them for a few minutes, but then the realization hits you; Hamilton is in the middle of nowhere, and you can only go to the Clinton Cider Mill so many times before your parents realize you have no idea what to do with them. But fear not, here is a no-nonsense guide to entertaining your parents for parents weekend, and if you follow it carefully, you have a chance at not boring them to death.

In terms of on-campus activities, options are limited. It is always a solid start to begin the weekend with a campus tour, especially if they have never been on campus before. Show them the KTSA, the field house, your dorm room (make sure to hide the beer), and the Little Pub. These are staples of the Family Weekend tour.

If you want to subtly (or not so subtly) insinuate that you want some Hamilton gear, you can lead them to the bookstore in the hopes of sweet-talking your way into a Kirkland College sweatshirt. If you are involved in any clubs or sports on campus, show your parents where you work, practice, or play. They want to know what you are up to at school, so indulge them. They are likely paying your tuition, after all.

Following the informal campus tour, take your chance to get off campus. Especially if you are a freshman or sophomore without a car, you cannot squander your opportunities to sample the cuisine of the greater Utica area. If you are looking to eat an absurd amount of Mexican food, Fresh 8 (located a few doors down from the Village Tavern in Clinton) offers a double burrito that will leave you full until Thanksgiving break. And, while you're in the cute downtown area, make sure to stop by Clinton Pottery and the ADK cheese shop.

Minar Fine Indian Cuisine is a great stop for Indian food in New Hartford, and would add some much needed diversity to your diet. If you are looking for some decent Japanese food, Mitsuba is a reasonably priced and fairly delicious establishment located across from the movie theater in New Hartford. It may not be the best Japanese food in the world, but it certainly beats the foreign food line at Commons.

BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17

First stop this weekend: the famous Clinton Cider Mill.

If you are looking for a way to kill a few hours, you can stop by Marquee Cinemas for a movie. Choose a movie with a longer run time to avoid having to talk about your gradually-descending GPA for as long as possible.

Lastly, there are several interesting events being hosted on campus this weekend. At 4:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 20, a triad of classic Japanese films will be screened at the Kirner Johnson Bradford Auditorium, accompanied live by the prestigious Alloy Orchestra. If athletics are more interesting to you and your family, the water polo state tournament is being held at the Bristol Pool at the same time as the film screening. At 7:30 pm on Friday Oct. 20, there will be a Family Weekend Choir and Dance performance held at Wellin Hall in the Schambach Center.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, there will be an alumni baseball game at 9:00 am. Come cheer on former Hamiltonians with your family! At 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., there will be a men's soccer game and an Ultimate Frisbee match, respectively. Soccer will be played at Love Field, while Ultimate Frisbee will take place at Withiam Field. Field Hockey also has a game at 12:00 p.m. on Goodfriend Field, and Football will be playing at 1:00 p.m. on Steuben Field. Back our Blue!

For a complete list of campus activities for Family Weekend, visit the events page on Hamilton.edu.

FROM WHERE I SIT: I AM GOING TO STOP PROCRASTINATING

by Tashi Lhamu '21
Contributing Writer

"I have to pull an all-nighter tonight because I have a paper due tomorrow. I would have finished it by now, but I was watching vines on YouTube instead."

"I have been waiting for this episode for so long. I am going to watch this first and then do my laundry after."

"I don't know how I got from 'Inheritance of Blood Groups' to '7 Reasons Why You Get Bitten By Mosquitoes More Than Everyone Else,' or why I spent the last hour wondering why blood group O is more attractive to mosquitoes."

Most procrastinators have gone through their own versions of the situations above. I once watched a TED talk on procrastination, "Wait But Why" by Tim Urban, only to avoid doing my extended essay in high school. In the end, I regretted my decision because I had to stay awake until 5.30 a.m. writing a 4,000-word essay. You would think I learnt my lesson from my experience, but no. Even today, I find myself drawn to the temptations of clicking on that one extra YouTube video or bingeing on that one extra episode which leads to many more.

Everybody, I imagine, has procrastinated at least once in their life, but that is not an issue. Procrastination becomes a complication in one's life if and when it becomes a habit, which is why it is better to nip it in the bud before it goes viral. If you are like me and most other procrastinators, you have probably wondered, "How do I stop procrastinating?" Well, the answer is really simple. Google it! Oh, better not, you will probably end up watching The Office, again.

The first step to stop procrastinating is acceptance. Accepting that procrastination is a problem and then finding the motivation to solve this problem. The internet has so many suggestions on how you can stop procrastinating.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TASHI LHAMU '21

There is no specific method that works for everyone because everyone is different and the degree to which we procrastinate is different too. Generally, the number one suggestion is finishing your homework or paper right away rather than leaving it for later. Doing this not only means that you can finish the work on time but it also means that you are one step ahead. Relaxation can come afterwards and bring peace of mind with it!

Sometimes, if you are too distracted to complete your work, it is good to take a walk or meditate to refresh your mind. It is always better to get back to completing the work as soon as possible because longer breaks make you lose your focus and interest. Setting conditions with oneself is another technique that you can try, where you reward yourself on completing your paper and meeting your deadline! For me personally, setting conditions works best because it gives me the framework and motivation to finish my work.

There are so many approaches to help stop procrastination but the most important factor of "How to stop procrastinating?" is perseverance. No matter how many times you fail, do NOT give up. It is easy to give in to the temptations but remember, time waits for no one and regret always follows procrastination. So, do not wait for tomorrow to stop procrastinating: Start NOW!

IS COFFEE THE ANSWER?

by Gabrielle Colchete '21
Contributing Writer

Ever pull an all-nighter to study for an exam, finish an essay, or perfect a project? For many college students, this is not uncommon. Depending on the volume of classwork, jobs, and extracurriculars, the hustle of college life leaves little room for sleep. In the battle against sleep deprivation, many Continentals turn to caffeine.

For some, this habit goes beyond having a cup of coffee with breakfast. On any given evening, Hamilton students can be spotted at Opus Cafe purchasing their strongest coffee. This is because coffee is a source of stamina for students who cannot afford to sleep the recommended amount. This begs the question: is coffee the answer?

Rileigh Arrington '21 drinks one-to-two cups of coffee on an average day. On particularly strenuous days, she drinks 3 or more cups to remedy her exhaustion. When she was in high school, all she would drink was half-caff coffee. But, after starting college, she began drinking fully caffeinated coffee.

It is common for regular coffee drinkers to find that they need more coffee to get the same effects. They also may become dependent on the beverage and experience withdrawal symptoms if they do not get their fix. Arrington reported that she experiences "exhaustion and headaches" when she skips coffee for a day.

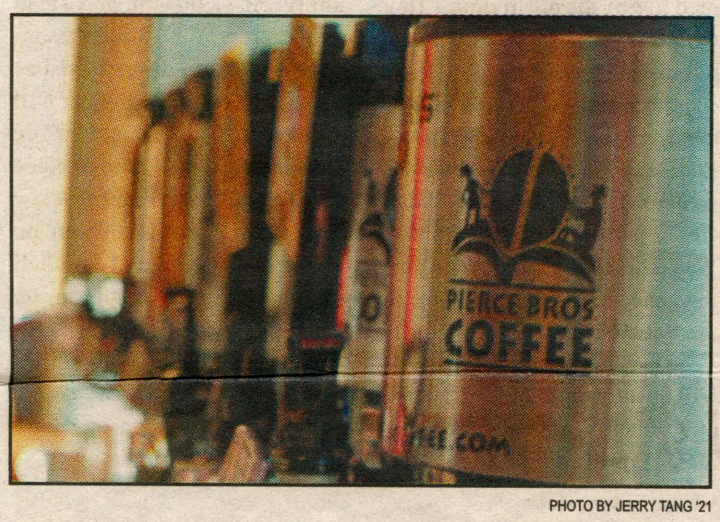

PHOTO BY JERRY TANG '21

Since caffeine limits blood flow to the head, it can also be the solution to migraines caused by constricted blood vessels. Arrington, who suffers from chronic migraines, said "sometimes when I have migraines I drink coffee with my medicine because the caffeine helps."

Unfortunately, the effects of coffee are not all positive. Coffee is found to increase anxiety, which college students already get enough of. Worse yet, it can cause insomnia if used frequently throughout the day. This can create a vicious cycle where people have a bad night of sleep from drinking coffee late into the day. Then, they drink even more coffee to stay awake the following day, and the cycle repeats.

Arrington reported that she gets "six or less" hours of sleep per night on average. According to the National Sleep Foundation, however, the average adult needs at least eight hours of sleep to function. Many of those who cannot reach that amount will use coffee as a substitute. However, this can become a dangerous game depending on when and how often the caffeine is consumed. According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, caffeine should not be consumed less than six hours before going to sleep. This only accounts for the half-life of caffeine, which makes it extremely difficult for

PHOTO BY JERRY TANG '21

one to fall asleep. Even after six hours, some caffeine is still present in the body and can prevent REM sleep cycles. This can impede on quality of sleep, which adds insult to injury for sleep deprived college students. So, is coffee the answer?

Occasionally, it can be. On exceptionally demanding days, coffee may not be a bad idea. However, it is probably not smart to consume large quantities of it on an everyday basis. Caffeine is a stimulant, and like most stimulants, it loses its energy-giving effect the more often it is used. In order to preserve coffee's benefits, it is wise to limit the amount you drink per week. But where does this leave busy college students who cannot get seven hours of sleep per night?

There are more sustainable ways to compensate for a lacking sleep schedule. Do not underestimate midday naps. According to the American Psychological Association, "in a 90 minute nap, you can get the same benefits as an eight-hour period of sleep." Even brief power-naps significantly enhance one's ability to focus.

There is a time and a place for coffee. There is nothing wrong with having a small cup to start each day. However, try to save the large Opus Magnums for when they are really needed. Squeezing quick naps between classes may be all that is needed on the average day.

Demystifying the college search with Almafind

by Matt Leibowitz '18
Contributing Writer

When I visited Hamilton as a prospective student, a since-graduated senior personally showed us around campus. Instead of taking an official tour, we walked around the glen, through his suite in Babbitt ("Sorry about all the beer bottles, Ms. Lebowitz..."), and checked out the music practice rooms in Schambach. More than that, however, my friend gave me his honest perspective on the school. Yes, the people and professors are wonderful, he said, and the abroad programs are terrific. However, he then told me, the administration is cracking down on Greek life and the food sucks.

His transparency helped me more than I understood. That's because, contrary to my parents' assurances, I didn't "just know" when I left the Hill that afternoon that I would attend school there. Yes, I felt conflicted by the stark pros and cons reported by my friend during my personalized tour, but feeling informed felt powerful.

For many prospective college students, the notion of a "perfect fit" school seems like a myth, for much of the search process is dominated by the extremely manufactured images of college brands. Generic websites, shiny brochures, and superficial campus tours abound with whitewashed and distilled information. To illuminate the multifaceted nature of most schools, the rest of the story needs to be told not by the school, but by students.

For over a year now, I've worked (currently as Editor-in-Chief) for Almafind, the brainchild of College of Mount Saint Vincent senior Denisha Kuhlor, who runs the startup-in-progress as CEO. A web platform aimed at providing prospective college students with authentic, student-generated content from target schools, Almafind promotes the kind of transparency which Kuhlor and I (and the rest of our team) find lacking in the college search process. "The goal of Almafind is to bring together an ambitious crew of college students around the country and give them the tools they need to paint an authentic and transparent narrative of their institution," Kuhlor said, elaborating, "the good and the not so good." Several student-written news articles on Almafind's home page concern topics such as the Cornell Student Assembly's recent condemnation of hate speech, and represent the very start of what our team intends to build into an expanding feed of student-generated content. These sorts of "moment-defining" events, as Kuhlor calls them, are more common now than ever before, and deserve visibility during the college search process.

Kuhlor perceives this sort of student content generation as extending directly from the trend of social media, claiming, "with the record high usage of social media, I do not think college admissions and media relations offices are always cognizant of how much of their institution's narrative is already written for them." Through Almafind, Kuhlor and her team intend to provide an accessible space for these more genuine and diverse narratives generated by students, for students. Existing

PHOTO COUTRESY OF ALMAFIND

websites such as the immensely popular Niche.com (formerly College Prowler) that feature rankings and reviews from current students do not offer options for networking or personalization, and here Almafind pinpoints a market gap. The platform will offer a networking service which will allow prospective students to video-chat with current students at the target school for a small fee. By organizing diverse teams of students at dozens of different schools, Almafind allows a prospective student to choose which college student to chat with based upon common background, interests, or activities.

Almafind continues to grow rapidly, and our team is excited to provide clarity and information to prospective college students on the boundaries of the search process, especially international and low-income students unable to afford college visits. Extending its reach to small, diverse teams of content generators at schools across the country, Almafind represents the next generation of college search resources: personalized, readily accessible, cheap, and above all, authentic.

TBT: Reverence towards Hamilton's statue appears dubious in mind of students

by Grace Myers '19
Production Editor

Originally published
Oct. 17, 1957
By Chuck Colton

Those who have sufficiently recovered from the rigors of Rush Week were, no doubt, aware of a tall, fastidiously dressed gentleman who peered benignly over the shoulder of David M. Ellis with an air of polite curiosity as the professor of American history delivered a citation at this year's convocation exercises.

Indeed, Ellis must have felt the presence of the gentleman too, for he spoke directly to Alexander Hamilton, and the statue of Hamilton was directly behind him. The statue, by the way, is the only form of Hamilton that has ever got to the College. Were Hamilton himself to appear today, he might well confuse our campus with that of another institution at Hamilton, N.Y.

Hamilton agreed to lend his name and to serve as the first trustee of the Hamilton-Oneida Academy in 1793, as reward for Samuel Kirkland's services during the Revolutionary War. George Washington gave money. Hamilton never set foot on the campus, and it is doubted that he ever attended a trustees' meeting.

In 1918, to commemorate the noble endeavors of our founder, a statue was presented to the school by the late Thomas R. Proctor of Utica, a prominent member of the Board of Trustees. The bronze statue now stands 100 feet from the Chapel, a figure of heroic proportions striking a noble pose on a four foot granite pedestal. The sculptor was G. W. Brewster, and the statue was cast at the Tiffany studios.

In 1918, at the dedication ceremonies, Elihu Root said, "This granite may crumble, the bronze may corrode, this college may be dissolved, but the memory of his work will endure." Sen. Root overlooked another almost inevitable result: the whim of the student. On numerous occasions, a "prep school" from Schenectady has taken fingerpainting field trips, but their decorative efforts have been constantly outdone by Hamilton men of the past.

Hamilton's dignity has been embarrassed on occasion by the use of ladies' unmentionables while those with a more earthy sense of humor have resorted to equipment pilfered from the athletic department stockroom.

The statesman once sported the latest fashion in painted orange Bermuda shorts. Concern for his welfare has resulted in overcoats of patriotic bunting streams of white tissue to ward off the ills of winter.

One particular point in favor of Hamilton is his traits of character which he has displayed. Quite cosmopolitan in tastes, he has celebrated St. Patrick's Day and often takes a drink at House Party as witnessed by numerous beverage cans and bottles strewn near his feet.

THE SPECTATOR, OCT. 17, 1947

Footsteps leading to the Chapel show that he has on occasion attended divine worship. And perhaps the most endearing legendary characteristic of our statue is his habit of climbing down from the pedestal to favor young ladies of high moral standards with a deep courtly bow.

October, 1957

How to get your parents to buy you food

by William Andriola '21
Contributing Writer

With family weekend fast approaching, one of the top concerns for students should be where to take their families to eat; Commons and McEwen are good, but sometimes a little variety is important! With that in mind, the restaurants below offer some of the best food options in the area, at a variety of price points. A few of the options below, such as the ever-popular Nola's, are in Clinton, however, this list also draws from the surrounding areas as well, such as Utica, which is a quick twenty-minute drive from Hamilton. This list below was compiled with the help of John Bartle, Professor of German and Russian Language and Literatures here at Hamilton, and is in no particular order.

Nola's

A classic option for Family Weekend, Nola's is an upscale yet still unpretentious, restaurant located in downtown Clinton. The restaurant offers both lunch and dinner, and primarily serves "New American" style food, ranging from the "Nola burger" to mussel-topped linguine. The restaurant also has vegetarian and gluten-free options available. Seating often goes quickly though, and Nola's does offer reservations, so reserving seats well in advance of popular events like Family Weekend is often necessary.

The Tailor and the Cook

The Tailor and the Cook is another excellent high-end restaurant, this time located in Utica. Listed on TripAdvisor as the #1 restaurant in Utica, and with a four-and-a-half-star rating on Yelp, this restaurant is truly "one of the best nationally known restaurants" in the area. The Tailor and the Cook specializes in locally sourced "American"-style food, such as filet mignon and whole-roasted rainbow trout. Those interested should know, however, that this is not a cheap restaurant; most entrees run for about $30 to $40 dollars. In addition, because it is a relatively small restaurant which takes reservations, space might be limited. Still, if you can get a spot, this is an excellent option.

Pho Mekong House of Noodles

Another classic option for Hamilton students, the Pho Mekong House of Noodles offers delicious traditional Vietnamese cuisine for a relatively cheap price. Located in Utica, Pho offers both lunch and dinner, as well as take-out or eat-in dining. A few items on its extensive menu include spring rolls and a number of soup options as well as fresh-fruit shakes. This is a great option for a more relaxed, and delicious, meal.

Zeina's Café

Zeina's is an excellent restaurant in Utica which specializes in Lebanese food. Ranked as the third best restaurant in the city by TripAdvisor, Zeina's offers great food while also not breaking the bank. With many traditional options such as gyros and falafels, Zeina's offers something for everyone. If you're looking for Lebanese food, another good option is The Grapevine in New Hartford.

PHOTO COUTRESY OF MICHELLE CHUNG '20

Families can head to Nola's for its eponymous burger (pictured above) or for a sweet dessert.

Ocean Blue Restaurant and Oyster Bar

Ocean Blue, located in Utica, is an upscale seafood restaurant with an excellent view overlooking the city. The trendy restaurant serves a number of seafood dishes, such as Atlantic salmon or lobster mac and cheese, as well as non-seafood options, such as chicken and whipped potatoes or a burger. Be warned, though, prices for most entrees are expensive, especially those with seafood, with most costing within the $30 to $40-range.

Poet Jasmine Mans joins students in celebration of National Black Poetry Day

by Natasha Lane '21
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"No, my skin was never cursed, it was Heaven sent," Justin Madison '20 says into the microphone, preceding a chorus of snaps, clapping, and cheers. His last sentence set the scene for the rest of the night — an evening to celebrate and focus on the positive. Madison was the first speaker in an incredible line-up of students celebrating National Black Poetry Day. The poetry event was hosted in the Sadove Living room, organized by the Black Latinx Student Union, Vibes, Written and Spoken, and Sadove Programming. The event involved various student speakers and poets, and featured multiple readings from travelling poet and activist, Jasmine Mans.

Oct. 17 was first distinguished as National Black Poetry Day in 1985. The meaning behind the specific date is to remember the birthday of the first published black poet, Jupiter Hammon, who was born into slavery in Long Island, New York in 1711. Her poem "An Evening Thought" was first published on Dec. 25, 1761. Since then, Hammon has been considered a founder of African American literature. The holiday itself has grown in popularity as a day to celebrate black heritage, community, and excellence across the United States. While National Black Poetry Day is not recognized as a state holiday, it has been adopted into many schools as an opportunity to shed more light on poets such as Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Phillis Wheately, and many more.

The poetry reading allowed people to express themselves in a safe space, bringing an array of people together to celebrate black excellence in literature — including special guest Jasmine Mans. Mans is a nationally acclaimed poet, performer, teacher, artist, and author of the book Chalk Outlines of Snow Angels, which includes "works addressing issues varying from broken relationships, fear, racism, sexuality, death and the overall human experience." Mans recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 2014. She currently spends her time traveling the country, sharing her poetry and art with the public.

The audience was captivated by her truly unique voice and expression, as she talked about topics such as love, sexual abuse, pop culture, and racial identity, while constantly interacting and joking with the audience. She stressed the concept of fictive kinship — the idea of a race being a community, and a loss for one person in your racial community becoming a loss for the entire community, and a win for one member becoming a win for all members as well. This concept has a lot to do with the social representation of racial groups in the media and pop culture, which Mans focused on during some of her readings included in her performance.

PHOTO BY LASHAWN WARE '19

E-board members of the Black and Latinx Student Union and Vibes, Written and Spoken join poet Jasmine Mans.

Her final piece, "Footnotes for Kanye" described a conversation between Kanye West and a fictional romantic partner from his past, as if he were finally coming home from a long time spent away. Mans explained to the audience how Kanye West was an inspiration of hers to start writing when she was younger, but has since traded his title of activist leader for of a pop icon, constantly contradicting himself and what he seemed to stand for so many years ago. Her performance received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Throughout the event, the audience was extremely responsive, and gave stellar reviews for each performer. This poetry reading was the first event on campus officially celebrating National Black Poetry Day, and with the success surrounding it, it seems like it is a tradition that is here to stay.

Woman to Watch Out For: Noname

by Bethany Vickery '20
A&E EDITOR

This week's woman to watch out for is Noname, a talented poet and hip-hop artist most recently featured on NPR's Tiny Desk Concert on Oct. 3 of last year. She performed an emotional and vibrant selection from her 2016 album *Telefone*. Her work addresses heavy themes, including a heart-wrenching story about abortion. But there is a brilliance in her performance that shines through the somber tone of her lyrics. Gracefully weaving together pain and jubilance, Noname's lyrics deliver a raw account of her experiences living on the southside of Chicago.

Noname released her first album *Telefone* on July 31, 2016 as a free download on bandcamp.com. Since then, it has become available on all streaming services and has received popular and critical acclaim. The album is inspired by telephone conversations that proved formative in Noname's adolescence and young adulthood in Chicago. Her lyrics speak to the specific struggles that accompany blackness and womanhood in contemporary America. *Rolling Stone* described the album as some of the year's "most thought-provoking hip-hop." *Stereogum* wrote that Noname possessed "a potency and urgency in her complicated, spoken word-esque cadences and subdued delivery that escapes many of her more animated peers." Her words seem to resonate with audiences in part because she draws attention to the underlying forces of racism and oppression that operate constantly in American society.

PHOTO COURTESTY OF NONAME.

Noname is currently a 26-year-old hip-hop artist.

In an interview with journalist Kiana Fitzgerald, Noname explained the purpose of her work. "My purpose isn't to just churn out a bunch of music... I'm trying to make music that people can live with and be with forever. That takes time," she said. The depth and weight of her lyrics anchor her work beyond the confines of trends, drawing both on universal emotions and the unique experiences of an American woman of color. Noname's lyrics marry the agony of oppression with the persistent vibrancy of her spirit, infusing her music with piercing emotion.

Born Fatimah Nyeema Warner, Noname began writing poetry in high school english class. She got involved in the YOUMedia project, a Chicago-based initiative to promote young artists. There, she befriended Chancelor Johnathan Bennett, another aspiring artist later known as Chance the Rapper. Chance's breakout mixtape *Acid Rap* featured Noname on the track "Lost," catapulting both artists into the public eye. Since her 2013 appearance on *Acid Rap*, Noname has appeared with Chance the Rapper on Saturday Night Live in 2013 and contributed to his latest album, *Coloring Book*. Noname is known for her collaborative skills as well as her talent as an individual performer. She has also collaborated with Mick Jenkins on his mixtape *The Waters*, with her contributions featured on the track *Comfortable*.

Most recently, Noname has collaborated with fellow artist Saba on a new song critiquing gentrification in Chicago. "Church/Liquor Store" examines gentrification of Westside Chicago, where liquor stores are often located directly next to places of worship.

Noname has consistently used her art as a platform for social commentary, but is not above self-correction. She changed her stage name from "Noname Gypsy" to "Noname" after becoming aware of the racist connotations associated with the word "gypsy."

In times as fraught as these, it is crucial to elevate voices like Noname's. Bursting with talent, Noname channels her gift for music towards a larger cause of social justice, and her contributions to the art world are inextricably tied to her mission of social progress.

Exploring the wondrous arts of Paris during study abroad

by Ghada Emish '19
Contributing Writer

Paris. This elegant city is a melting pot of cultural activities. Hamilton in France is a good academic program because it is aware of the cultural and educational potential of a city as inviting for cultural exploration as is Paris. I live with a lovely French family in the 12th arrondissement, walking distance to the Opera Bastille and the Lyon Train Station. I am taking classes at two French universities (Universite Sorbonne Nouvelle and Universite Paris Diderot), as well as two classes at Reid Hall (where Hamilton's office is located). It takes me between 15 and 30 minutes to go to class from where I live.

It did feel a bit strange at first that class is not walking distance from my residence as opposed to my last two years at Hamilton, but I am establishing a level of independence that is unique to going to school in a city. I am exploring the city on my own and shaping my own experience in a foreign country by myself. The smallest choices such as where I have lunch, or go for a crepe, or what museum I visit are the details that, over time, basically inform my knowledge of the city and teach me more about my preferences.

Transportation in Paris is most convenient. The metro and bus are both comfortable and fast enough. They both go everywhere in Paris and are so well branched-out that I do not have to walk more than 15 minutes from the bus or metro stop to reach any destination. Luckily, the program helps students obtain transportation cards that can be used for both metro and bus throughout the year or the semester of their stay in Paris.

Film and theatre are flourishing in Paris. There are countless cinemas and theatres in the city. There is a beautiful cultural diversity of films and an awareness to both show features films and documentary films. As a country that embraces cultural education, France offers a discount on all film and theatre events for students. I felt so relieved (and so special) when a play I wanted to see only cost me 10 euros instead of 44 because of the reduced student fare!

This advantage makes the exploration of cultural spectacles quite inviting. In Paris, one can see plays in different languages other than French, which means an exposure to cultures other than French culture. Hamilton, being aware of the importance of experiencing the rich cultural events in Paris, offers students a reimbursement of 65 euros per semester.

Hamilton in France is a wonderful program. I never would have had the chance to experience Paris in such an informed yet explorative manner if it had not been for the Hamilton in France. After only seven weeks into the program, to me, it feels like an unforgettable episode of my college education and of the endless journey of learning that is my life.

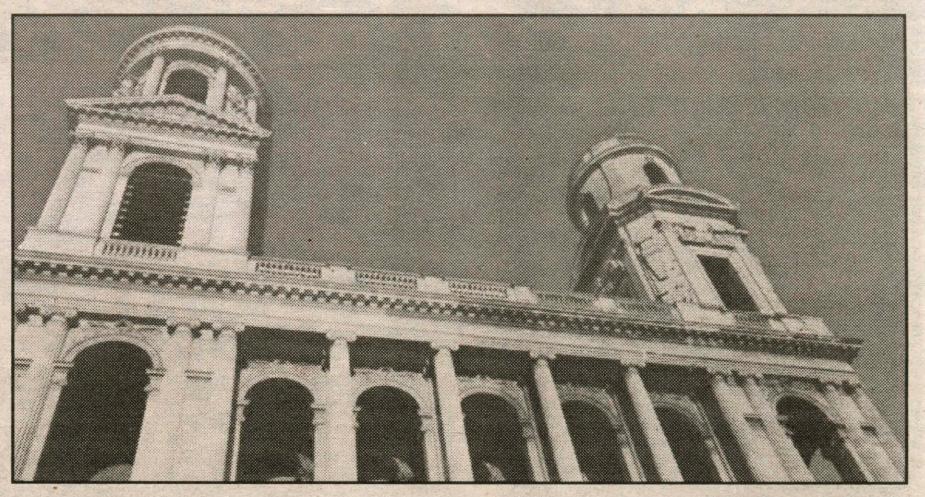

PHOTO BY GHADA EMISH '19

As a part of the French study abroad program, students can explore historical and artistic sites.

PHOTO BY GHADA EMISH '19

A view of the infamous Eiffel Tower.

Hamilton College welcomes all visitors to our campus during Fallcoming and Family Weekend! Make sure to check out these performance events in the next few days featuring the works of our students and faculty.

by Michelle Chung '20
A&E Editor

Student Dance Alliance Showcase
Friday, October 20, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Blood Fitness Center Dance Studio

Move along to the beat with some of Hamilton's dance groups as they perform their own choreographed pieces, each with their own choice of music, fair, and style. Featured groups include Tap That!, Bunheads, Dance Team, HEAT, and Tropical Sol.

Choir and Dance Event
Friday, October 20, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Wellin Hall Schambach Center

Marvel at a night of beautiful choreography and exciting music compositions as the Hamilton College Choir and Department of Dance and Movement Studies share the stage. The Choir portion, under the direction of Jace Saplan, will include works of American composers passionate about social justice. The Department of Dance and Movement Studies will present works by faculty and students.

A Cappella Concert
Friday & Saturday, October 20-21,
9:30 - 11:30 p.m. Chapel

Laugh and applaud at the lighthearted performances by Hamilton's seemingly-countless number of a capella groups! Featured groups include Special K, Duelly Noted, Tumbling After, The Hamiltones, and The Buffers, satisfying a diverse set of music tastes for the whole family.

Orchestra and Jazz Event
Saturday, October 21, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Wellin Hall Schambach Center

Listen to an array of musical pieces performed by the Hamilton College Choir, conducted by Heather Buchman, alongside the Hamilton College Jazz Ensemble, directed by "Doc" Woods, Leonard C. Ferugson Professor of Music. Doc has written more than 700 compositions in various styles, including choral, orchestral and chamber, as well as jazz combo and big band.

"The Swan Song" Performance
Saturday & Sunday, October 21-22
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. List 204

Enjoy a performance of "The Swan Song" by Anton Chekhov, a play focused on two characters: a 68 year old comic actor and a theater prompter. Watch Hamilton students act out their own version of the infamous play. The performance is sponsored by Untitled at Large and directed by Sarah Zeiberg '18.

While on campus, also be sure to check out the Kevin and Karen Kennedy Center for Theatre and the Studio Arts, which features student photographs, videos, sculptures, paintings and more. Additionally, don't forget to visit the Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum and observe works of professional artistry at the museum's current exhibit, Innovative Approaches Honored Traditions: The Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum at Five Years, Highlights from the Permanent Collection.

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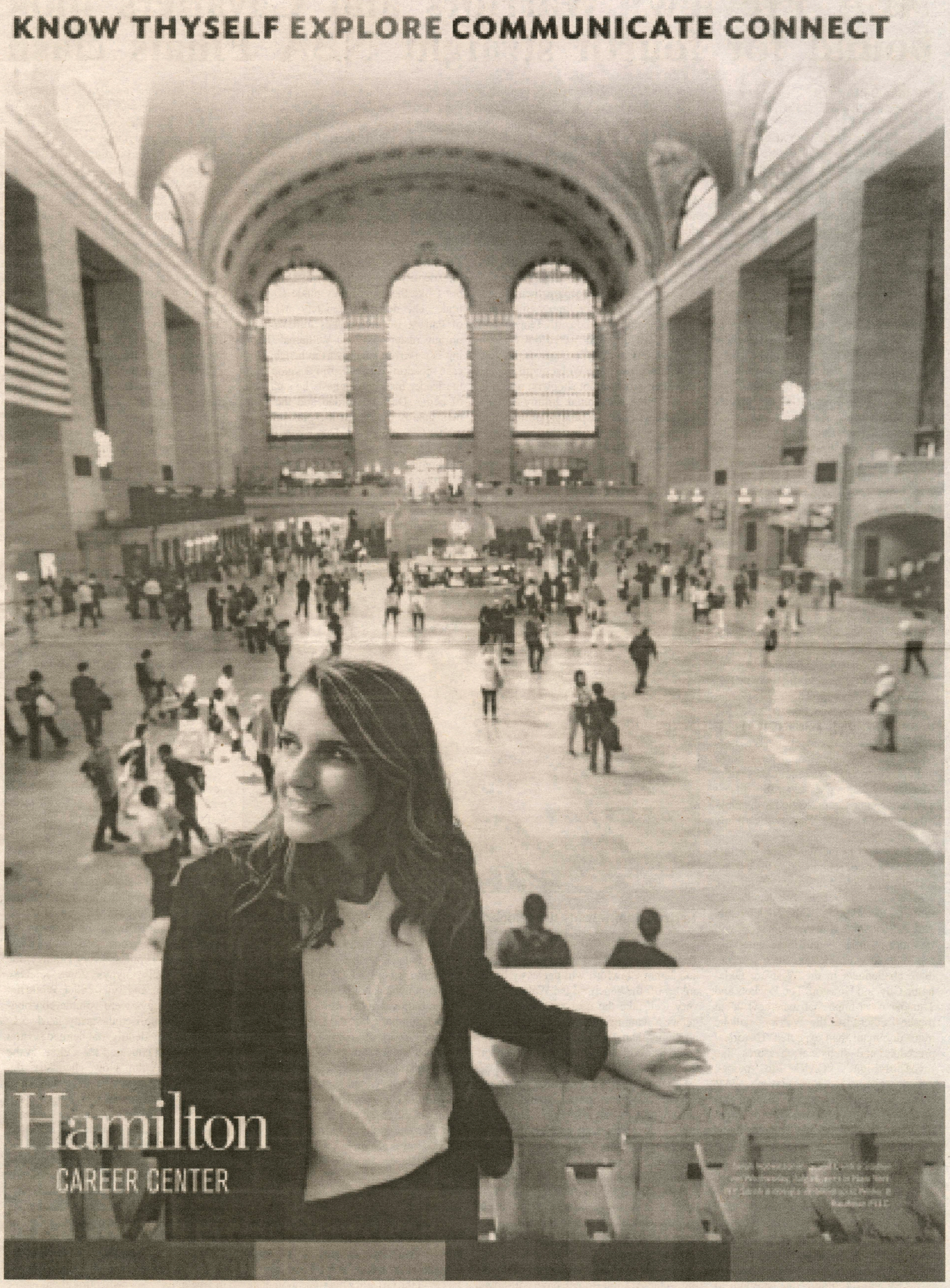
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NBA Preview: Warriors and Cavaliers look bound for fourth straight NBA Finals clash

by Jake Bolster '19
Contributing Writer

Fall is here and with it comes the 2017-2018 NBA season. Before we look to the upcoming slate of NBA action, let's look back at the wild offseason that preceded it. Between July and mid-October, seven 2016 All-Stars — Jimmy Butler, Paul George, Carmelo Anthony, Chris Paul, Gordon Hayward, Kyrie Irving, and Isaiah Thomas — switched teams, an NBA record. The fun did not stop there, as the NBA made Nike its apparel sponsor, changed the lottery system, abolished the conference format of All-Star games in favor of a playground type model where two captains pick teams, welcomed a new, highly touted class of rookies, and considered abolishing seeding by conference for the playoffs. To top it all off, players thoughtfully and passionately responded to President Trump's comments about the Warriors visiting the White House,and NFL players kneeling during the national anthem, showcasing why the NBA is considered the most socially conscious of the four major American sports leagues. All of these exciting transactions and rule changes promise entertaining storylines for the upcoming season, except, perhaps, where it counts most: the finals.

The season kicked off Tuesday when the Cavs hosted the Celtics and the Warriors hosted the Rockets. Experts have the Warriors and Cavs as the early favorites for the top two seeds in their respective conferences, and the Rockets and Celtics trailing close behind them. With Kyrie Irving demanding a trade away from LeBron and Cleveland, and the new look Rockets with Chris Paul in-tow getting their first look at an even better Warriors squad, opening night could foreshadow a dramatic and explosive regular season. Since many teams got deeper this offseason, the regular season battle for the playoffs, especially in the West, will certainly be intriguing.

Let's start in the West. The Warriors show no signs of relinquishing their stranglehold on their conference. With one season under their belt with Kevin Durant and the addition of the Nick Young, A.K.A Swaggy P, this Warriors team will be more prolific — and more entertaining — than ever. Golden State's immediate challengers in the West are Oklahoma City and Houston. The Rockets and Thunder must hope that their new talent meshes, otherwise, the Warriors will be more dominant than expected. Historical precedent and statistical measures like FiveThirtyEight's CARM-Elo model, which accounts for each player's WAR (wins above replacement) projection, plus total years of playoff experience on a roster, favor the Rockets and Thunder figuring things out and grabbing the two and three seeds in the west, respectively. As usual, San Antonio comes into the season as underrated as ever — this time deservedly so after failing to engage in the NBA arms race this summer. Nevertheless, San Antonio should be able to coax a 55 win season out of its roster thanks to the combination of Gregg Popovich's coaching wizardry and the bionic superstardom of Kawhi Leonard. I think OKC's potential ball-sharing problems in the last few minutes of close games will be enough to cause them to lose a few more games than they should, giving the Spurs a good shot to finish third in the West. If you ever find yourself doubting San Antonio this season, just remember, barring a Kawhi injury: death, taxes, and the Spurs winning 50-plus games.

So, what about the rest of the West? The league-wide consensus is that Minnesota will make the playoffs for the first time since 2004, and we have good reason to suspect they will. For starters, Minnesota did what few other teams did this offseason; they added talent to the starters and reserves while keeping their young stars happy, traded for Jimmy Butler and Lou Williams, signed Jeff Teague and Jamal Crawford, and maxed out Andrew Wiggins last week. These moves, however, did not provide the Wolves with any extraordinary three point shooters, which in today's NBA is essential. Jimmy Butler's addition will provide reliable primary and secondary scoring options, and his defense will make up for Andrew Wiggins' lack of skill on the defensive end. Jeff Teague at point guard will bring the total number of players in the Wolves' backcourt who can shoot threes at or above the league average up to one. Fortunately, Karl Anthony-Towns looks to be a generational talent and Jamal Crawford will agelessly break ankles off the bench, so the Wolves could very well take the next step and put together a winning season. I am projecting no higher than 48 wins, which, if they hit, could be good enough for the four seed in the West.

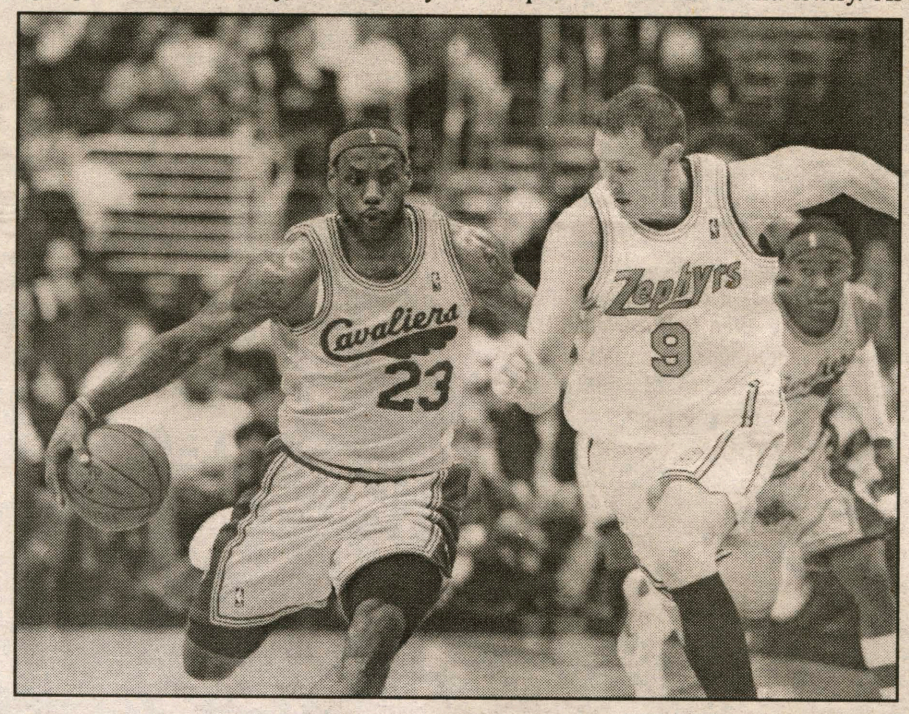

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

LeBron James leads the retooled Cavs in a weak Eastern conference.

After Minnesota, the New Orleans Pelicans have the most intriguing roster outside of Los Angeles. Can Alvin Gentry — the head coach who occupies the hottest seat in the NBA — wed Anthony Davis and Demarcus Cousins together in a coherent offense? Will Jrue Holliday and Rajon Rondo make that much of a difference? The answer is no. The Pelicans' pairing of two of the best big men in the league harkens back to the days when David Robinson and Tim Duncan terrorized and overpowered the league on the Spurs, but so far, AD and Boogie have not shown they can make it work. The Pelicans will not escape mediocrity, due mainly to their atrocious bench. By the trade deadline, Cousins will be on the trading block and Gentry will be shown the door. If the Pelicans hold onto Cousins and eventually lose him in free agency, there is a scary scenario in which Davis, frustrated with the organization, lets his eye wander to Boston, where Danny Ainge, somehow, has positioned the Celtics as the hush-hush favorite to land him, should he become a free agent.

In Los Angeles, we have two lovable underdogs (do not tell that to Lavar Ball). The Clippers are a team without a discernible identity after trading away Chris Paul, but I like the moves they made after the trade. The defensive tenacity and heart of Patrick Beverly makes him valuable on any roster, and Lou Williams' shooting is a proven spark off the bench. Best case scenario: Blake Griffin develops into the leader his play suggests he's capable of being, Deandre Jordan and the Clippers guards figure out the pick and roll model CP3 pioneered, Doc Rivers works some lineup magic, and the Clippers give the Spurs a scare in the first round of the 3-6 matchup of the Western Conference. Worst case scenario: Griffin gets injured again, and this team misses the playoffs and plummets as far as the lottery. As for the Lakers, well, no one can say that showtime is not back — at least in terms of media hype if not on-court production. Lonzo Ball will put up Rookie of the Year-caliber numbers, but the Lakers will still fall well short of making the playoffs; there just are not enough verified weapons on this team yet.

The Jazz — still with Rudy Gobert — and the Nuggets, are widely projected to fill out the remaining two playoff spots. The Blazers could end up over-performing and sneaking in, but the West is deep and the Blazers are not. If Damian Lillard is not snubbed for an All-Star pick this year, their season should be considered a success.

Questions surrounding the rest of the West: Will Devin Booker explode for 70 points again? Does Dallas have the Rookie of the Year on their roster (Dennis Smith Jr)? Will the Grizzlies overpay another aging, slightly above average player? How does Harry Giles perform after the Kings' impose a three month delay on the start of his season so he can prepare his knees for the rigors of an NBA schedule? We will get the answers to these questions, and more, over the course of the next six months, but if anything is for sure in the West, it is this: everything runs through Golden State.

The East is forecast to come down to Cleveland and Boston…again. Though there was substantial roster turnover for the Cavs and Celtics — last year's one and two seeds — both, arguably, got better — exchanging all star point guards in the process. Cleveland's acquisition of Jae Crowder gives them the 3 and D wingman they have been searching for ever since LeBron returned to Cleveland, and Isaiah Thomas, when healthy, will make up for most of the offensive load Irving left when he departed. What will be interesting is to see how Derrick Rose and Dwyane Wade perform in the starting lineup. Starting Wade over J.R Smith will cost the Cavs early offensive explosiveness behind the arc. Rose and Wade combined to hit 58 three pointers last season, Smith alone made 95. Do not be surprised if after a frustrating habit of starting games off slow, the Cavs reinsert Smith at starting shooting guard and have Wade come off the bench as the sixth man. LeBron, however, seems genuinely motivated to recapture the MVP, and if this is true, it could mean he will power Cleveland to the tune of 30-12 before the All-Star break, regardless of who the Cavs roll out in their backcourt. The addition of Jeff Green, and the subsequent trading of Richard Jefferson and Kay Felder means Cleveland is the deepest, and most fiscally flexible it has been since LeBron returned in 2014. If Isaiah Thomas returns at full strength, the Cavs will be playing in June, and, win or lose, will have given it their best to entice LeBron to stay in Cleveland.

In Boston, Irving — if we are to believe his insistences — could prove capable of gelling with Al Horford (now that Gordon Hawyard is out for the year), contorting his game to be more of an all-round playmaker than the isolation killer he was in Cleveland. However, after parting ways with 11 members of its roster — that is 73 percent — I am not ready to bet on the Celtics just yet. Notable absences from the team that was the Eastern conference's number one seed last year include Isaiah Thomas, Avery Bradley, Jae Crowder, Kelly Olynyk, Jonas Jerebko, Amir Johnson, and Tyler Zeller. While not all of these guys were volume contributors, they comprised the gritty, hardworking, underdog identity that defined Boston as a city, and endeared the Celtics to the average NBA fan. Now, chemistry, defense, and grit could be an issue for the Celtics. I have a feeling that, after a shaky start, Kyrie, Hayward, and Horford will get things together enough for the Celtics to earn 50 wins and the number two seed in the conference. Bold prediction: Kyrie receives more MVP votes than Steph Curry after putting together the most statistically complete season of his career, resulting in his team qualifying for the playoffs. If that proves to be true, Danny Ainge will have perfectly positioned the Celtics to make a run at Anthony Davis in free agency — cementing them as the NBA's team of the future.

see ***NBA Preview,*** *page 15*

Summer of impactful transactions sets stage for riveting 2017/18 NBA regular season

from NBA Preview, page 14

Down in Washington, budding superstar John Wall and his sidekick Bradley Beal are looking to make the leap into the upper echelon of NBA teams. Right now, they sit at third in their conference and about sixth or seventh in the overall landscape of the NBA. Based on the way Wall and Beal have been talking in the offseason, it sounds like the Wizards are looking to show everyone they are capable of challenging the East's reigning elite. Their starting five has been together the longest in the East, so they will be afforded the advantage of good chemistry from the start of the season. This time, teams know they're good and will adjust accordingly. Expect Washington to finish around 48 wins: 50 if they are as good as they say they are. On the minuscule chance that both Cleveland and Boston stumble to start the season, we could be looking at a three-way race for the conference's number one seed.

As for Toronto, I am not sold on this team whatsoever. Sure, they retained much of their upper level talent, but Lowry disappears in the playoffs, DeRozan is fighting a losing battle by practically refusing to shoot threes, and there is no reliable third option for scoring. I can very easily see this team losing in the first round of the playoffs as the four or five seed to the Milwaukee Bucks.

On the Bucks, if you have a chance to watch a Milwaukee game this year, do it. Whether it is a whole game or just a quarter, make sure you see Giannis Antetokounmpo play. Kevin Durant dubbed him the potential G.O.A.T., Adidas sent him a van full of apparel and shoes to woo him to sign a sneaker contract in the offseason, and he led Milwaukee in points, assists, rebounds, steals, and blocks last year — just the fifth player in history to do so. Oh, he is also only 22 years old. If Giannis can develop a reliable shot from beyond fifteen feet, forget about it. No one would have an answer for him, on either side of the ball, and as long as the Bucks get proper contributions from Jabari Parker and reigning rookie of the year, Malcolm Brogdon, this team will qualify for the playoffs and be a serious nightmare matchup for anyone they face.

On to Charlotte. The Hornets will try to avoid the mediocrity and locker room problems Dwight Howard has exuded ever since he left Orlando behind the grit of underrated point guard Kemba Walker and the rookie, lights-out shooter they drafted — Malik Monk. Best case scenario: Howard makes net positive contributions, Walker plays well and stays healthy, Monk gets hot like he did in college, and the Hornets land in the 5-7 range come playoff time. A missed playoff appearance would be a major step back for Michael Jordan's organization.

And now, for everyone's guilty pleasure: the Philadelphia 76ers. It is between Philly, the Detroit Pistons, and the Orlando Magic — I cannot believe I just wrote that two teams projected to be around 36-46 are in the playoff hunt, but it just goes to show how steep the drop off in the East is — for the remaining two playoff spots. If you turned on a Sixers basketball game anytime within the last five years, you should be rooting for Philly to garner one of those spots. Not because watching them continuously tank, draft talent, and tank for the last half-decade again has been tortuous, and not because they have two potential Rookie of the Year candidates, but because even halfhearted NBA fans should want to see a potentially once-in-a-lifetime talent like Joel Embiid get payoff minutes. Last season, the Sixers outscored opponents by 3.2 points per 100 possessions when Embiid was on the floor, and according to Mitch Adams, an NBA statistician for ESPN, the Sixers were a 56-win team with Embiid on the floor and an 11 win team without him. Plus, the man owns twitter. Proof? His recent spat with Hassan Whiteside, his positional peer who he managed to roast while taking down Kevin Durant in the process (pun intended). Clearly, he is as gifted with his characters as he is with a basketball. Too much needs to go right for the Sixers to vault into the top half of teams in the east this season, but if they stay healthy and generate chemistry, we should all be rooting for and expecting a low-seed playoff berth. The prospect of the nothing-to-lose mentality Sixers versus heavyweights like the Cavs, or Celtics is simply too mouth-watering to root against.

Debatably intriguing questions across the rest of the East: How will Kristaps Porzingis fare in his fourth year with the circus — excuse me, the Knicks? Will the Pacers try to grind it out for a playoff spot, or will they embrace the tank in its last season of being indisputably rewarding for bottom feeding teams? Are Orlando, Brooklyn, and Atlanta even worth mentioning in this preview? Does Chicago win more games than Golden State loses?

While the regular season and some of the playoffs, will provide plenty of the petty drama we have come to know and love in the NBA, the finals should be anything but. If the Warriors and Cavs remain healthy, they will square off for the fourth time in a row this June — unprecedented in the modern era. Should Cleveland make it a series, like they did in 2016, it will all be worth it; if not, the NBA has some serious reckoning to do about the negative effect of superteams on its product.

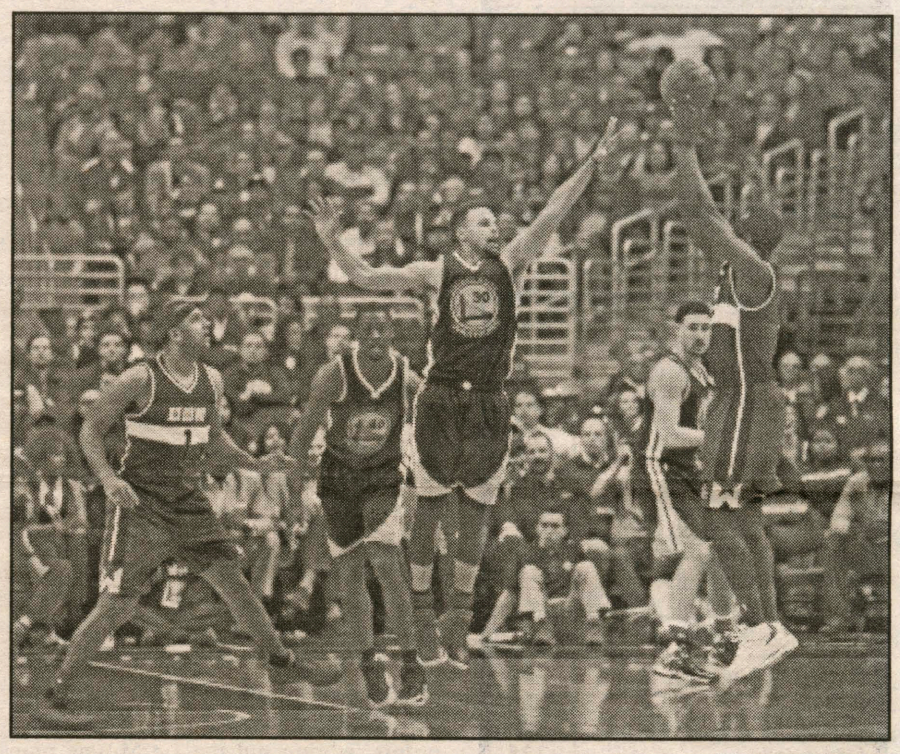

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Warriors are focused on winning back-to-back NBA titles.

Elimination from World Cup will not end progress for United States soccer

by Robert Berk '20
Staff Writer

On Tuesday Oct. 10, the United States men's soccer team lost 2-1 against Trinidad and Tobago in a World Cup Qualifying match. While the team entered the day with a 97 percent chance to qualify for the World Cup, the surprising upset, combined with late comeback victories by Honduras and Panama, eliminated the U.S. from the World Cup. Prior to the Trinidad loss, the U.S. had qualified for the previous seven World Cups. The last time the U.S. missed the World Cup was 1986.

Since Landon Donovan's stoppage time goal against Algeria to advance the US to the knockout round of the 2010 World Cup, the quality of soccer in America has vastly improved. In 1999, Major League Soccer consisted of 12 teams. The league now has 22 teams, with more on the way. The value of each team has increased along with the number of teams. The estimated value of a new team is $150 million. This growth makes sense, as more fans have been following the league. One MLS game even drew a crowd over 70,000. The U.S. now has a larger fan base, but they do not have games to watch or a team to support. Cesar Guerrero '20 remarked, "I'm sad that the U.S. didn't qualify. I really enjoy watching and was looking forward to watching the World Cup. Unfortunately, I know that I'll watch less now that the U.S. didn't qualify." The World Cup gives casual fans a chance to follow soccer. It is a short and concentrated tournament that is in the mainstream media. It is one of the few times that soccer is talked about commonly and openly in the public. While this means that the majority of Americans will not watch the World Cup, the biggest soccer fans will still watch.

The fact that the men's team did not qualify means that the next major international competition that the U.S. will compete in is the Women's World Cup in 2019, assuming they qualify. Catharine Pierce '20 remains positive in spite of the men's team's loss. She said, "Mia Hamm was my first role model. I grew up playing soccer. While I hoped that the U.S. men's would be playing, this makes me more excited for the women's world cup." Jade Thomas '20 felt similarly. She shared her thoughts, "I am shocked! Now the women's team can take the national spotlight." The truth of the matter is that the women's team is much more successful than the men's.

The United States women's team won the most recent World Cup in 2015. Of late, the women's team has been bringing in similar revenue to the men's team; soccer is one of few sports where this is the case. I truly believe that the women's team will be able to become the face of international soccer in the United States of America. The elimination of the men from World Cup contention indubitably hurt American soccer, but it is no death knell. For the quantity and quality of American soccer to continue to grow, the Women's National Team likely must be the face of the movement.

The U.S.'s failure to qualify for the World Cup has many wondering whether the progress made in American soccer will be lost. That the men's team failed to qualify for the World Cup is embarrassing given the amount of money spent on the program and will be a setback for the growth of soccer in the U.S.. While it is not a good thing, many bright spots in American soccer remain, and the reason to believe soccer will continue to grow. Soccer is still more popular in America than ever before and the impact has seeped far beyond the professional level.The MLS is growing in terms of the number of teams, the number of fans, and the value of the teams. Youth soccer participation now has over three million members. The state of American soccer is strong.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
October 19, 2017

Cross Country wins Hamilton Invitational, Lucas Wright '21 named Runner of the Week

by Megan O'Hara '21
Staff Writer

Women's Team Scores:

Team	Score
Hamilton	**30**
Le Moyne	36
SUNY ESF	78
Cazenovia	140
SUNY Polytechnic	172
Herkimer County CC	180
SUNY Morrisville	187
Mohawk Valley CC	198
Wells College	223

Men's Team Scores:

Team	Score
Hamilton	**28**
Le Moyne	35
SUNY ESF	77
SUNY Polytechnic	120
Onondoga CC	144
Mohawk Valley CC	175
Royal Military College	219
Wells College	223
Bryant & Stratton	279
SUNY Morrisville	304
Cazenovia	325
Fulton-Montgomery CC	339

Saturday Oct. 7 was rainy and cold, but it was a great day for the Hamilton Continentals. Thirteen teams from Division II, Division III, and NJCAA schools were invited to the Hamilton College Invitational. However, as the races got started, it was clear that the Continentals would lead the pack.

The women's race concluded first with Hamilton's Hanna Jerome '18 winning the five-kilometer race overall. She finished in just 18:38.4 minutes and was closely followed by Grace Heller '20 in second, with a time of 18:52.4. Out of the 85 runners contending for the top placement, Hamilton women's cross country placed four runners in the top-10. Caitlin Anthony '18 and Katie Cronin '21 finished shortly after in 11th and 13th place respectively.

With 30 team points, the Continentals took the team title, overcoming Division II Le Moyne College by six points and placing first in nine-team field. The rest of their season looks promising as they head to the Hamilton Short Tuneup Invitational this weekend.

The men's race started shortly after with 120 runners taking to the 8-kilometer course. Hamilton's Lucas Wright '21 placed second overall, coming in with a time of 25:30.5, just 4.7 seconds behind the individual winner from Le Moyne. Quickly thereafter, the Continentals claimed five of the top ten placements with Peter DeWeirdt '18 in third, Erich Wohl '18 in sixth, Henry Whipple '18 in seventh, and Christopher Skeldon '20 in 10th. All finished in under 27 minutes.

The Continentals took just 28 team points, edging out the Le Moyne men to take the team title for men's Cross Country also. This was the first time this season that both the men's and women's teams have won the team title of a race.

Speaking to DeWeirdt on the team's accomplishment and future goals, he said, "Personally, I was happy with the Hamilton Invite. The rest of the team came in with some really solid performances. Chris Skeldon came in big with a 10th place finish as our fifth man (the top five score in cross country), and it was a huge personal best for me. Next weekend we have a smaller short course invitational at home that we're looking to win. After that we have two big championship races, NESCACS and the Atlantic Regional Championships. With three good team performances in a row at these races, we're hoping to extend the season to Elsa, Illinois where nationals are being held this year." With big goals in mind, the team is working hard and focusing on each other's strengths to pull though.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HARTPENCE

Sinclair '18 and Wohl '18 provide veteran leadership for Hamilton.

Last week, the NESCAC took note of those strengths, recognizing Lucas Wright as NESCAC Runner of the Week. Wright is the team's lone first-year but has played a big role on the team already. DeWeridt spoke of Wright's teamwork saying, "Lucas, who was second in the race, and I worked really well together throughout and battled hard to try and get that first place spot for the team." Wright's placement in the Hamilton Invitational was essential to the team's success. When asked about his recognition, Wright said, "It was definitely pretty cool to be the runner of the week. It was also nice to be able to represent Hamilton so early in my college career. It was a personal best for me, 25:30 (5:06 mile pace). I'm definitely still getting used to the jump from the high school 5k to the collegiate 8k and am feeling more comfortable with every race." Wright's time and placement has only improved throughout the season, and he is confident that as the rest of the season plays out, his performance and the team's as a whole will only continue to advance. Speaking of season goals, Wright said, "Cross Country is all about the team. I personally want to keep running fast and trying to win every race, but as a team, we all need to move up and keep putting people behind us. I think that our team this year has the possibility to do really well. We have a solid top pack and a lot of potential, if we stay healthy." The focus on the team's success is what will lead the Hamilton men's cross country into the post season.

Hamilton was recognized early in the cross country season when Bryce Murdick '20 was selected as NESCAC Runner of the Week. Murdick did not compete in the Hamilton Invitational, but will figure heavily into the Continentals' top-five entering championship season.

> **"Cross Country is all about the team. I personaly want to keep running fast and trying to win every race, but as a team, we all need to move up and keep putting people behind us."**
> *—Lucas Wright '21*

The team has been off for break but will return Oct. 21 for the Hamilton Short Course Tuneup. The women's race will begin at 11 a.m., and the men's will follow at 11:30 a.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HARTPENCE

Jerome '18 and Heller '19 finished in first and second respectively at the Hamilton Invitational to lead the team to victory.